



## **Digitizing Archaeological Archives**

### **The Case of the Diana Kirkbride-Helbæk Archive**

Kinzel, Moritz; Jensen, Charlott Hoffmann; Larsen, Asger Væring

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## Editorial

Within a few weeks, we editors of *ex oriente* paved the way for three important publications (D. Henry and J. Beaver, eds., on Ayn Abū Nukhayla; by guest editors M. Benz and J. Bauer the pioneering *Neo-Lithics* 2/13 special issue on *The Symbolic Construction of Community*; the book of M. Kinzel on the architecture of Shkārat Msaied and Ba‘ja in our *SENEPSE* series). We are proud of these publications, as are our co-editors Reinder Neef and Dörte Rokitta-Krumnow.

But this would not be an editorial of *Neo-Lithics*, if we would not be thoughtful about this output: Who can read all these, process all the information, and who can afford to buy all these, in addition to the rapidly increasing enormous output of equally important publications on the Near Eastern Neolithic by other authors, editors and publishing houses? And even more problematic: Who can intellectually and fairly evaluate the constantly emerging new approaches and schools of thought? If one has to publish one’s own material and thoughts without first consulting the eruption of new literature for one’s own topic, doesn’t this severely impact the academic quality, discourse and progress of one’s own publications? More and more we see that colleagues apparently were unaware of recently published materials and ideas on their subjects and have forged ahead in order to cope with the publishing constraints.

Research has become governed by highly problematic tools and concepts since it is fueled by various uncontrollable acceleration mechanisms and developments, such as funding institutions that grant shorter and shorter research terms, the “authority” of rating systems in academic publishing, the ever-growing possibilities of the internet and computer software; the list goes on and on. Does what has been thought to facilitate research gradually become the grave digger of research? Can we continue to hope that things are not that dramatic or worse?

Hans Georg K. Gebel and Gary Rollefson

## Digitizing Archaeological Archives: The Case of the Diana Kirkbride-Helbæk Archive

Moritz Kinzel, Charlott Hoffmann Jensen, and Asger Væring Larsen



Fig. 1 Storage shelves with divers analog material from the Kirkbride collection.

The amount of data produced during an archaeological excavation project, of which a large part is in non-digitized form, calls for a solution to store all data digitally in order to share data among colleagues around the world, secure data back-up in the long term and meet the demands from research funders for making data management plans, as well as public interest in research in general (MacDonald 2006).

The ToRS (Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies – ToRS, Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen) Dataverse Network started as a pilot project aimed at addressing some of these issues, which are relevant not only archaeologists but also for researchers in the humanities and social sciences in general. The project was a cooperative effort between a research group at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen and The Royal Library in Copenhagen. It resulted in a service that handles three main needs of the research group. These include popular dissemination of a project, in this case materials gathered during the archaeological fieldwork at Shkarat Msaied (Hermansen *et al.* 2006; Kinzel *et al.* 2011) in the Petra-Area in Southern Jordan, dissemination of the research articles resulting from the excavation, and, finally, the technical infrastructure allowing for upload and back-up of digitized and born digital data, as well as annotation of this data and dissemination to colleagues around the world (<http://shkaratmsaied.tors.ku.dk/>).

The Dataverse Network Project is a repository service for digital data. The software was developed by the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University (Anon 2012a, 2012b), where it is also possible to host digital data projects. However, it was decided to develop a local installation on an in-house server at The Royal Library where the material is stored. Access to the Dataverse Network is through the project, which can be found on the department web page, which also supports the dissemination of research articles as well as addressing the interested public. Access is controlled through passwords (available on request) which can give full or limited access to the files.

Following the pilot project phase, in Spring 2013 the Carsten Niebuhr Centre for Multicultural Heritage (CNC) at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies – ToRS, University of Copenhagen launched a program to incorporate more archaeological archive materials stored at the department. The program's aim was to create an inventory of all the material stored in the archaeological archive – including the Diana Kirkbride-Helbæk Collection – and to enter the digital record into the Dataverse system maintained by the Royal Library.

The ToRS Dataverse Network has now been extended to include material from several archaeological field projects, of which the material from the excavation of Beidha is the most prominent. The Kirkbride Collection includes a wide variety of material, including images (slides, b/w, negatives), maps, drawings,

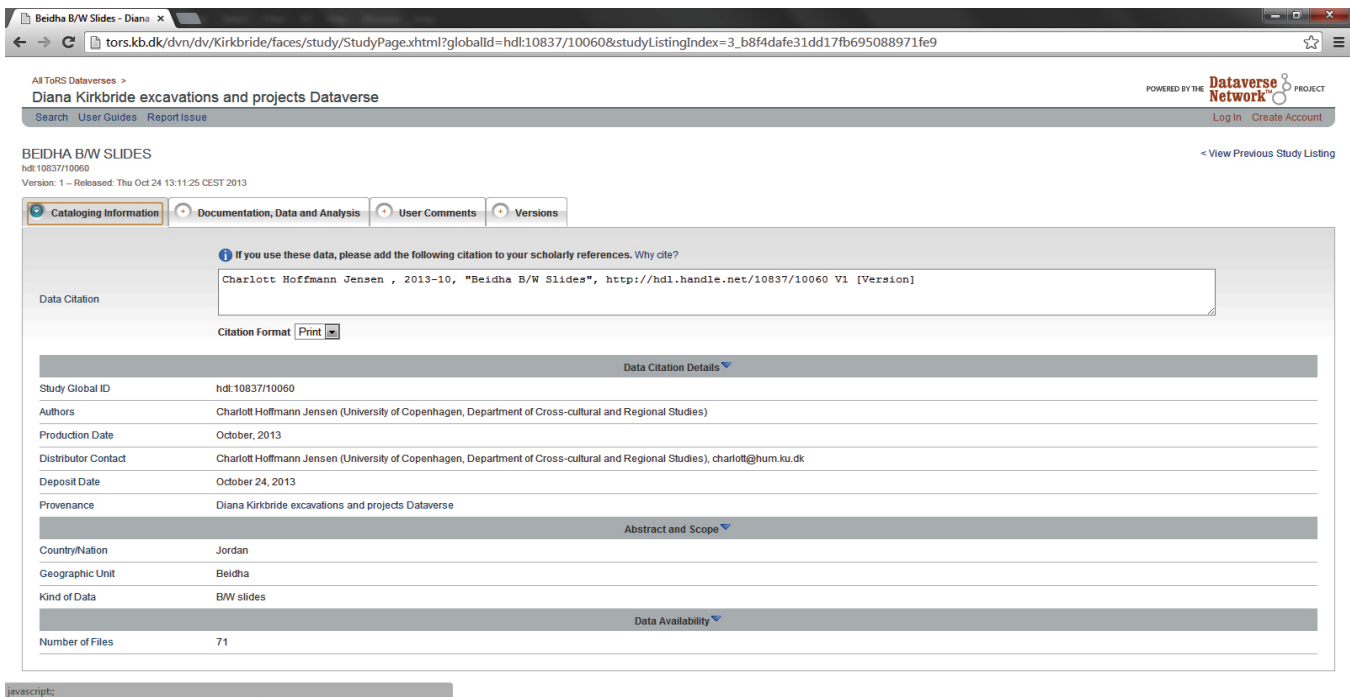


Fig. 2 Screenshot of one study in the Dataverse system with scanned Images of the Beidha excavations.

field notes, samples, off-prints *etc.* from her travels, works, and visits to other (now famous) sites in the Near East. In addition to other projects, material from the following Kirkbride-projects are part of the archive: South Jordan Survey, Wadi Rumm, Risqeh, Madamagh Survey, Jerash Survey, Umm Qais, Petra, Wadi Araba Survey, Beidha, Umm Dabaghiyah, and documentation of various travels in the Near East, including Jordan, Iraq, Turkey and Lebanon.

In the case of the Beidha excavations, only a limited amount of the original record material was in digitized form, as the excavations took place in the 1950s and 60s. Therefore, the main objective has been to digitize field notes, photos and other data presently stored at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional studies. A web page entry for Beidha is still underway, but will later provide easier access to the digitized material.

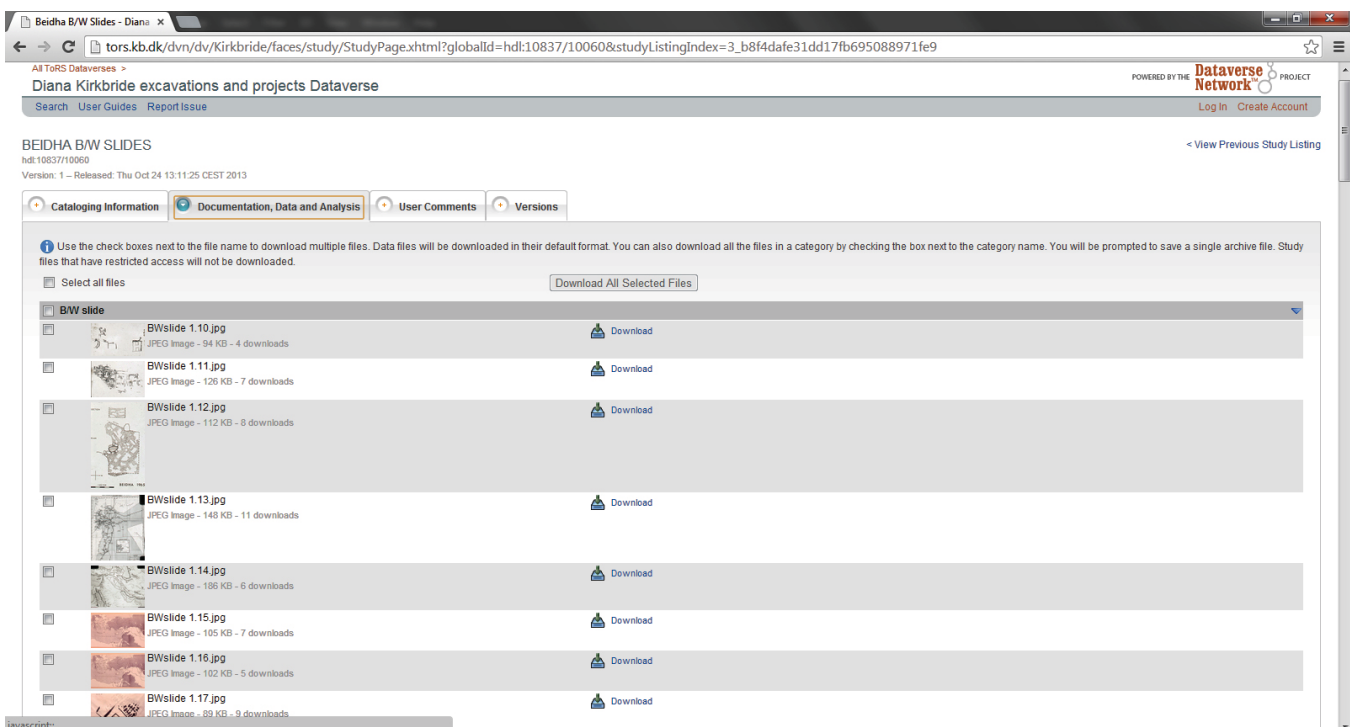


Fig. 3 Screenshot of one study in the Dataverse system with scanned Images of the Beidha excavations.

The digitizing project for Beidha has shown the need for an overall plan to structure the material as the system itself does not provide a very user-friendly interface. For example, it was decided to structure the material according to the folders in which the copies/prints are stored and also to keep each so-called study at a manageable size. Additionally, in order to minimize the time spend on the digitization project it was decided that black & white negatives and slides are to be scanned at low resolution, which enables everyone to download a photo in a short time. If photos are going to be used for publication purposes *etc.* a new scan in high resolution can be ordered and produced accordingly.

The digitization of these materials can be seen as a part of our role as caretakers of these inherited archaeological materials and records, which tell a complex story about human and research history. Kirkbride's files are a great source to dig into the history of archaeological research in the Near East and, in particular, research in Jordan. We hope that the digitization of Kirkbride's files will help to promote Near Eastern Archaeology, the sharing of archaeological and other research data and that it will highlight research history and methods.

**Moritz Kinzel**

Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies -  
ToRS, University of Copenhagen  
zdr147@hum.ku.dk

**Charlott Hoffmann Jensen**

Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies -  
ToRS, University of Copenhagen  
charlott@hum.ku.dk

**Asger Væring Larsen**

The Royal Library, Copenhagen  
avla@kb.dk  
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## The Construction of Neolithic Corporate Identities

Invitation to a Workshop organized by **Trevor Watkins** (University of Edinburgh), **Marion Benz** (University of Freiburg i. Br.) and **Hans Georg K. Gebel** (Free University Berlin)

9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East, Basel, June 9-13, 2014.

<http://9icaane.unibas.ch> (early bird registration until March 31st, 2014)

One of the most momentous thresholds in the longer-term evolution of human sociality was neolithisation - the transition from more flexible mobile foraging communities to sedentary and complex corporate societies. For too long Neolithic research has concentrated on the economic side of this transition, while the formation and maintenance of these early large-scale communities could not have developed without unprecedented cognitive and social capacities. More than ever before, in these sedentary milieus the human ability to perceive selectively, to memorize associatively, and to act in a collaborative way, evolved by steadily valorizing, symbolically charging and communicating practices, discourses, spaces and things, including building “traditions”. Corporate identities in the Near Eastern Late Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic were not only formed and sustained by commonly accepted tangible things (images, paraphernalia, practices etc.), they were also promoted and transformed by intangible modes, codes and ideological concepts.

The workshop aims to identify and translate the empirical evidence of the different intangibles that helped to form Epipalaeolithic and Neolithic group identities. One of the approaches might be the concept of (inter-)mediality by which cognitive competences behind corporate strategies can be identified. In addition to prehistoric archaeologists, the workshop invites contributions from specialists in evolutionary and cognitive sciences.

### *Participants with contributions*

Prof. Dr. Kurt W. Alt, Institute of Anthropology, Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany.

Dr. Eleni Asouti, School of Classics, Archaeology and Egyptology, University of Liverpool, UK.

Dr. Marion Benz, Science Associate, Department of Near Eastern Archaeology, Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg i.Br., Germany.

Dr. Amy Bogaard, Lecturer in Neolithic and Bronze Age Archaeology, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford, UK.

Dr. Lisbeth B. Christensen, Department of the Study of Religion, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

Dr. Hans Georg K. Gebel, Institute of Near Eastern Archaeology, Free University Berlin, Germany.

Profs. Drs. A. Nigel Goring-Morris / Anna Belfer-Cohen, Institute of Archaeology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel.

Dr. Theya Molleson, Science Associate, Department of Earth Sciences, The Natural History Museum, London, UK.

Dr. Tobias Richter, Department for Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Prof. Dr. Gary O. Rollefson, Department of Anthropology, Whitman College, Walla Walla, USA.

Dr. Christa Sütterlin, Film Archive of Human Ethology of the Max-Planck-Society, Andechs/Munich, Germany.

Prof. Dr. Trevor Watkins, Emeritus, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, UK.

## Domestication of Plants and Animals in the Near East

Invitation to a Session organized by **Maria Saña Seguí**, maria.sana@uab.cat (Departament de Prehistòria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona - Spain) – **Jean-Denis Vigne**, vigne@mnhn.fr (UMR 7209: Archéozoologie, Archéobotanique: Sociétés, Pratiques et Environnements, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle – CNRS, Paris - France) – **Sue Colledge**, smcolledge@gmail.com (University College London, Institute of Archaeology, London - UK) – **Miquel Molist**, mimolist@gmail.com (Departament de Prehistòria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Barcelona - Spain)

XVII World Congress of the International Scientific Association UISPP,  
Burgos-Atapuerca (Spain), between the 1-7 September, 2014.

The aim of this session is to provide a platform to discuss and exchange ideas, opinions and new theoretical-methodological perspectives on the study of plant and animal domestication. ... One of the main points raised in the debate on the phenomenon of Neolithisation is the need for integration of studies of animal and plant domestication within the context of economic and social change that took place in the early Holocene. Our session is to present and discuss from different sights the processes of domestication, for example, their causes and consequences, based on the wealth of accumulated data from recent research and, most important, with a particular emphasis on drawing together evidence from archaeozoological, archaeobotanical and archaeological studies. Special attention will be paid to new conceptions about early domestication (*i.e.* “predomestic” agriculture or control of wild animals), to new methodological, technical and high resolution approaches to the study of the processes, to different temporal and spatial scales and to the exploration of the variables that interact during the domestication of animals and plants.

With these aims in mind, the session will be interdisciplinary, including presentations and discussions on the following aspects:

- concepts used in the study of domestication in the Near East;
- new methodological and technical approaches to the study of plant and animal domestication, for example, criteria involved in the definition and classification of the first domestic animals and plants;
- the empirical record and new archaeological evidence for domestication – micro- and macro-spatial approaches;
- economic strategies and the integration of animals and plants: the origins of agricultural and pastoral practices;
- explanatory models for animal and plant domestication;
- the role of the Near East in the study of the domestication and Neolithisation processes: its distinctiveness and heuristic power.

Communication proposals have to be submitted by the 30th of April 2014 to the congress organization. Registrants must indicate which Congress sessions they will attend, before May 31, 2014 ([www.burgos2014uispp.es](http://www.burgos2014uispp.es)). Please also send a copy of the abstract to us (contact: [maria.sana@uab.cat](mailto:maria.sana@uab.cat)). On the congress webpage you should also find information on the guidelines for the abstracts and the posters, congress inscription and financial assistance for participants:

- registration and proposal forms at [www.burgos2014uispp.es](http://www.burgos2014uispp.es)
- technical information: [uispp2014@viajeseci.es](mailto:uispp2014@viajeseci.es)
- scientific information: [uispp2014@fundacionatapuerca.es](mailto:uispp2014@fundacionatapuerca.es)



**2014 ToRS International Food Workshop**

**Food, Identity and Social Change**

**25-26 September 2014**

**Department of Cross-cultural and Regional Studies (ToRS),  
University of Copenhagen, Denmark**

**Call for Proposals**

Food draws people into the web of life and touches upon everything that matters: it expresses personhood, marks membership (or non-membership) in practically any kind of social grouping and draws lines of where morality begins and ends. Yet, food can also signify very different things from place to place, from kitchen to kitchen and from one time period to another. Social changes – such as peoples on the move (nomads, migrants, tourists), changes in intergroup relations within societies, new technologies (in mass media, biotechnology), mass production of foods, increasing globalization of food and changes caused by war – have been relatively neglected in food studies.

Food is a powerful lens for analyzing identity. This is clearly illustrated in the works of food studies that include Bourdieu's inquiry into the taste and preferences of the French bourgeoisie and Mintz's pioneering historical study of how high status sugar produced in the Caribbean became a working class staple to the exciting growth of more recent works by Appadurai on how to create a national cuisine and Wilk's scrutiny of the complex culinary reactions of Belizeans to colonialism, class differentiation and modernity.

**Keynote Speakers**

Professor Tamara L. Bray, Wayne State University

Professor Mandy Thomas, Queensland University of Technology

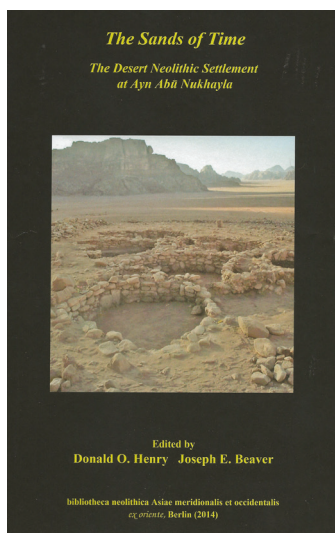
Professor Richard R. Wilk, Indiana University

We welcome contributions on food, identity and social change: Why do we eat what we eat and why have different cultures and societies at different times eaten other things? What fosters social change to affect dietary patterns and changing identities? How can food offer the lens to understand the cultural and social affinities in moments of change and transformation? The topic offers an opportunity to excavate the past, to examine the present and to project into the future.

**Anyone interested in presenting a paper at the ToRS 2014 International Food Workshop  
should submit a proposal of 300 words and relevant contact information by  
1 April 2014 to Katrine Meldgaard Kjær ([katrinemkjaer@gmail.com](mailto:katrinemkjaer@gmail.com))**

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Organizing Assistant: Katrine Meldgaard Kjær ([katrinemkjaer@gmail.com](mailto:katrinemkjaer@gmail.com))



Recently published by *ex oriente*:

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### The Desert Neolithic Settlement at Ayn Abū Nukhayla

edited by Donald O. Henry & Joseph E. Beaver

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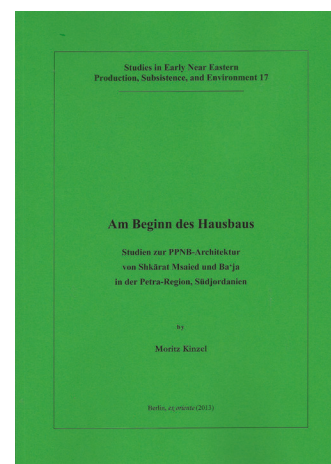
Acknowledgements, Contact Information for Corresponding Authors

- Chapter 1. The Problems, Questions, and Getting the Answers, by *Donald O. Henry*
- Chapter 2. Geology, Landforms, and Depositional Systems in Wadi Rum 13, by *Carlos E. Cordova, Regina DeWitt, and Barbara Winsborough*
- Chapter 3. The Setting, Site Plan, Excavation Strategy, and Integration of Evidence, by *Donald O. Henry*
- Chapter 4. The Stratigraphy, Occupational Phases, and Chronometry, by *Donald O. Henry and Joseph E. Beaver*
- Chapter 5. The Built Environment: Architecture at Ayn Abū Nukhayla, by *Joseph E. Beaver*
- Chapter 6. Hunting and Herding at Ayn Abū Nukhayla: The Vertebrate Faunal Assemblage, by *Rebecca M. Dean*
- Chapter 7. Tracing Herding Patterns at Ayn Abū Nukhayla through Biogeochemical Analyses in Faunal Remains, by *Marie Balasse, Jamal Salamah Al Zaidaneen, Rebecca M. Dean, T. Douglas Price, and Donald O. Henry*
- Chapter 8. Establishing the Environment, Seasonality, and Economy from Plant Micro-Remains: Pollen and Starch, by *Aline Emery-Barbier*
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- Chapter 19. Pulling It All Together: Answers to Many Questions, by *Donald O. Henry*
- References Cited

Digital Appendices 2.1, 16.1, 17.1-17.19, and 18.1 can be accessed at <http://orgs.utulsa.edu/sands>

*Recently published by ex oriente:*

**Am Beginn des Hausbaus**  
**Studien zur PPNB-Architektur von Shkārat Msaied**  
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**Moritz Kinzel**



**Studies in Early Near Eastern Production, Subsistence, and Environment 17, 2013.**

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